

hatred against them. They are for me mere entities, spirits of social maleficence. And the act which I accomplish here is only a revolutionary means of hastening the explosion of truth and justice. I have "but one passion — one for light, in the name of humanity, which has suffered so much, and which has a right to happiness. My passionate protest is hut the cry of my soul. Let them have the courage to bring me before an Assize Court, and let the inquiry be held in broad daylight! I wait/'

This manifesto threw Paris into a state of uproar. Three hundred thousand copies of the number of " L'Aurore " containing it were sold,<sup>1</sup> and long extracts were reproduced by «Le Sfecle," "La Petite R^publique," and the few other newspapers which supported the cause of Dreyfus: the great bulk of the press, it should be mentioned, being on the other side. The Clericalists in particular now threw off all disguise. That same afternoon Count Albert de Mun, the Papal Nuncio's henchman, " interpellated " the government in the Chamber of Deputies, and by 312 votes against 122 carried a resolution calling on the authorities to put a stop to "the attacks on the honour of the army." The Prime Minister, M. Meline, announced on this occasion that it had been decided to prosecute Zola, but this hardly satisfied the more ardent Clericalists, one of whom, M. de Pontbriand, deputy for Nantes and an acolyte of the Archbishop of Paris, suggested a few days afterwards that all

the members  
of the Dreyfus family and the leaders of the "Jew  
Syndicate" <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A good many copies were "bought" by anti-Dreyfusites and  
burnt publicly  
in the streets.

<sup>2</sup> There never was such a syndicate. Said Zola to  
Vizetelly more than  
once: "It is a thousand pities there was none! Half the  
journalists who  
denounced us lived on "bribes and blackmail. They would  
willingly have sold  
themselves. In fact, in some instances, indirect  
suggestions to that effect  
were made in the "belief that we really had a syndicate and  
millions of francs